

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. R2-2002-0095

**IN SUPPORT OF
MARIN COUNTY REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE STATE WATER
POLLUTION CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT
FOR INTERIM SEPTIC SYSTEM REPAIRS ON THE EAST SHORE OF
TOMALES BAY
AND FOR
WATER QUALITY MONITORING AND SOURCE ASSESSMENT FOR
PATHOGENS AT MARIN COUNTY RECREATIONAL SWIMMING AREAS**

Whereas, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Board) has identified Tomales Bay and its watershed on the State's 303(d) list as impaired due to pathogens, and the Department of Health Services has classified the shellfishing operations in Tomales Bay as 'threatened' due to pollution threats that require shellfish closures during rainfall periods. One identified source of the pathogens is onsite sewage disposal (septic systems) located along the shoreline of Tomales Bay;

Whereas, Marin County contains over 200 miles of coastal shoreline and serves as a recreational area for an estimated 5 million visitors, and the County has recently posted swimming advisories due to high coliform counts;

Whereas, Marin County and Marin County Environmental Health Services has expressed interest in applying for funding from the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) to operate a 'lending library' to temporarily address failing septic systems and a program to monitor beaches for pathogen levels and provide source assessments in its August 2002, proposals;

Whereas, Section 13442 of the California Water Code states that upon application by a public agency with authority to clean up waste or abate the effects thereof, the State Board may order moneys to be paid from the CAA to the agency to assist it in cleaning up the waste or abating its effect on waters of the State;

Whereas, funding from the CAA would enable Marin County Environmental Health Services to provide:

- Information regarding summertime pathogen levels, specifically coliform, in waters from Tomales Bay and will assist in TMDL development;
- Reductions in the release of pathogens from failing septic systems which may be a key component of long-term reductions to pathogens in Tomales Bay;
- The replacement of failing septic systems which will be an important first step in a long-term plan to replace septic systems on the East Shore of Tomales Bay, providing an improvement in the water quality of Tomales Bay;

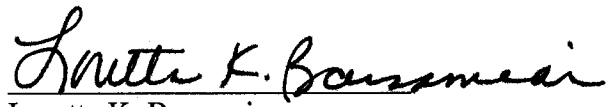
- Baseline data on the water quality of Marin County recreational swimming areas; and,
- Source identification and remediation of activities that are causing an exceedance of water quality standards in Marin County recreational swimming areas.

Whereas, the Marin County Environmental Health Services projects will have direct benefits for the Regional Board's water quality protection efforts in Tomales Bay and throughout the region, by providing improved data and models for monitoring;

Whereas, this Regional Board is responsible for ensuring that present and potential beneficial uses applicable to the waters in the Region are protected from the pollution and nuisance that may occur as a result of waste discharges.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, hereby supports Marin County's request for funds from the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account for two projects; an interim pretreatment program for failed or failing septic systems on the East Shore of Tomales Bay, and a pathogen monitoring and source assessment/remediation program for recreational swimming areas.

I, Loretta K. Barsamian, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on September 18, 2002.


Loretta K. Barsamian
Executive Officer